

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (canceled).

Claim 2 (previously presented): A stent, comprising:

a plurality of ring-like elements spaced from one another along a longitudinal axis;

flexible connecting members joining selected ring elements;

wherein each ring element comprises a plurality of inner ring elements and a plurality of outer ring elements with adjacent inner and outer ring elements joined one to the other by structural elements that have an orientation, prior to expansion, and take on an orientation having less of a radial component after expansion.

Claim 3 (withdrawn): A bifurcated stent, comprising:

a plurality of ring-like elements spaced from one another along a longitudinal axis, wherein an initial portion of the ring-like elements define an initial tube-like structure, a first portion of the ring-like elements define a first tube-like structure branching from the initial tube-like structure, and wherein a second portion of the ring-like elements define a second tube-like structure branching from the initial tube like structure;

flexible connecting members joining selected ring-like elements, such that the first and second portions of ring-like elements can be made to interlace with one another to define overlapping first and second tube-like structures and thereafter can be separated from one another to define independent first and second tube-like structures such after insertion into a vessel, the first portion may extend along a first vessel and

the second portion may extend along a second vessel and wherein the initial portion may extend along a vessel that joins the first and second vessels.

Claim 4 (previously presented): A stent, comprising:
a plurality of struts defining a tube-like structure, wherein at least a portion of the struts have spiral passages located therein that extend to a region outside the stent.

Claim 5 (canceled).

Claim 6 (previously presented): The stent of claim 2 which is monolithically fabricated from a plurality of adhered layers of deposited material.

Claim 7 (previously presented): The stent of claim 6 wherein each layer is formed from at least one structural material and at least one sacrificial material and wherein after formation of the plurality of layers the sacrificial material is removed.

Claim 8 (previously presented): The stent of claim 7 wherein the ring-like elements are formed as ring-like elements during the formation of the plurality of layers.

Claim 9 (previously presented): The stent of claim 7 wherein the ring-like elements are formed as flattened elements during the formation of the plurality of layers and are then rolled into rings after removal of the sacrificial material.

Claim 10 (withdrawn): The stent of claim 3 which is monolithically fabricated from a plurality of adhered layers of deposited material.

Claim 11 (withdrawn): The stent of claim 10 wherein each layer is formed from at least one structural material and at least one sacrificial material and wherein after formation of the plurality of layers the sacrificial material is removed.

Claim 12 (withdrawn): The stent of claim 11 wherein the ring-like elements are formed as ring-like elements during the formation of the plurality of layers.

Claim 13 (withdrawn): The stent of claim 11 wherein the ring-like elements are formed as flattened elements during the formation of the plurality of layers and are then rolled into rings after removal of the sacrificial material.

Claim 14 (previously presented): The stent of claim 4 which is monolithically fabricated from a plurality of adhered layers of deposited material.

Claim 15 (previously presented): The stent of claim 14 wherein each layer is formed from at least one structural material and at least one sacrificial material and wherein after formation of the plurality of layers the sacrificial material is removed.

Claim 16~~8~~ (currently amended): The stent of claim 4 wherein the passages are filled with a desired drug which is dispensed to a patient after implantation.

Claim 17 (previously presented): A stent, comprising:
a plurality of struts defining a tube-like structure, wherein at least a portion of the struts have passages that run a length of the struts and that extend to a region outside the stent via apertures.

Claim 18 (previously presented): The stent of claim 17 which is monolithically fabricated from a plurality of adhered layers of deposited material.

Claim 19 (previously presented): The stent of claim 18 wherein each layer is formed from at least one structural material and at least one sacrificial material and wherein after formation of the plurality of layers the sacrificial material is removed.

Claim 20 (previously presented): The stent of claim 17 wherein the passages are filled with a desired drug which is dispensed to a patient after implantation.